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OFF WE GO

Back to normal length with this issue...we've got lots of items for you, including an update on regional information plans...new way to get "historical" materials...notes of a few honors and appointments...another rank-the-publications contest...and lots more. Read on....

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MOVING RIGHT ALONG

The next couple of weeks, hopefully, will bring news about the Congressional action on USDA's budget, including the outcome of GPA's request for funds to establish regional information offices.

As we've noted before, the House rejected the request; the Senate put the funding back in the appropriations. But the two groups must confer before things are finalized. So, with Congress returning soon, we hope for a conference soon after which will give us the answer to our request.

Meanwhile, Stan Prochaska and his secretary, Nancy Bevis, have been detailed to GPA from the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) to begin planning the regional information operations.

In other words, fingers are still crossed over the situation but not quite so tightly as in months past.

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NEW TO US

While AMS is on our mind...we noted in a recent AMS inf report a new staffer, Josephine Downey, who has bilingual talents. She pulled together a special story on the AMS Food Marketing Alert for Spanish-language media.

That reminded us to mention the arrival of Mara Guerrero-Lyon, who recently joined GPA as an editorial assistant with GPA's Hispanic information activities, headed by Phil Villa-Lobos.

So...welcome to both Josephine and Mara. And, if the rest of you have newcomers we've overlooked, let us know and we'll introduce them.

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OOPS...CHECK THIS DATE

Before we forget it, Bob Norton who's assigned to the structures project, gigged us the other day over a typo. Seems we hit the wrong key when we reported the date of the Montpelier, Vt. meeting. Date should be November 27...NOT the 17th. Sorry about that ___, ___, ---, ;;, ! Other dates are correct.

Interest is building over structures...and it appears the meetings will be heavily attended.

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REMEMBER AMES
CONFERENCE

We hope you have sent your registration in to Mason Miller, SEA-CR, for the Science Information Conference to be held in Ames, Iowa, Oct. 22-26. Folks interested in the workshop after the conference especially should register early as the workshop is filling up fast.

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OKAY...GUESS AGAIN

Recently we offered you a couple of tough tests on rating publications sold and given out free to the public from the Consumer Information Center (CIC). The ranking of best sellers brought no winners and the ranking of freebies had only one winner--Gary Hermance of the U. of Fla., who rated the 10 correctly in order of their popularity.

So...here's an easier test...this time from the new summer sample survey of the demand for the 138 pubs offered free by CIC. All you have to do is select from the following six pubs the three that were among the top ten of all 138 offered and the three that were among the bottom 15 of the 138.

When you've made your selection, call Norma McDill in Claude Gifford's office at (202) 447-8005 and give your rankings to her. Or...drop her a note at Room 536-A, 14th and Independence.

Two weeks from now, we'll print the names of those who picked the top three and the bottom three--unless there are so many winners that we don't have room. If you rank all six in the correct order, you'll get a star. Now, out with your pencils:

Rank, from 1-6:

- Can I get free or cheap public land
- A guide to consumer action
- Cancer information service
- Dried flower arrangements
- Providing for your heirs--non-sale property transfers
- Tranquilizers

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NOW IT'S NEWS ONLY

Hereafter, if you want a copy of an old press release or a speech, write to the Head, Collections-Maintenance Section, SEA-TIS, Room 301, National Agricultural Library, Beltsville, Md. 20705.

There's a \$2 charge for each 10 pages of material ordered from the library...a minimum charge of \$2 per order.

This reflects a new way of handling such requests--which Joe McDavid, GPA's press chief, says "gets us out of the history business and more into current affairs." He says most requests for older material comes from lawyers, associations, college prof's and "...assorted, nefarious no-goods who order from us to keep from paying subscription fees." There, he's talking about another new practice whereby the Press Division is no longer responsible for keeping ESCS and FAS reports (that's Economics, Statistics and Cooperatives Service and Foreign Agricultural Service). Order ESCS reports from ESCS Publications, Room 0054-S (202) 447-7255 and FAS reports from FAS Publications, Room 5918-S (202) 447-7937.

The 18 file cabinets that used to hold historical files have now been replaced with three and the number of employees has been cut from five to three.

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AND NOW, THE BAD NEWS

Nelson Fitton, GPA publications chief, wants to bring to everyone's attention a recent article about paper supplies that appeared in "American Printer and Lithographer" (July edition). The article reports research that shows that paper supplies will remain tight during much of the next five years...and demand will continue to grow at a rate faster than the capacity to produce.

According to the article, inflation isn't likely to influence demand, lighter weights are going to be harder to get, the growth in lithographic printing (using web offset presses) is boosting paper requirements (a major characteristic of web offset presses is the high waste factor, especially in four-color processing), and any demand for quality is likely to be up rather than down.

The bottleneck in the production of papers in the U.S. is in the capacity of machines to make the paper. There appears to be no shortage of pulping capacity and there is no shortage of fiber.

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FOR SOILS ENTHUSIASTS

Folks concerned about the nation's soil erosion problems will be meeting in D.C. Nov. 15-16 for a conference on Soil Conservation policies. Some of you may already know about it and plan to attend. Sponsors are the Soil Conservation Society of America and the National Association of Conservation Districts...and, of course, USDA through SCS. Lee Shields of SCS calls the meeting "a biggie," and urges you to let people know about it.

The session will be held at the Washington Hilton Hotel. You can get registration forms and a copy of the program by writing to the Soil Conservation Society of America, 7515 Northeast Ankeny Rd., Ankeny, Iowa 50021. There is a registration fee of \$35.

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THEY PUT THE BEE
ON LEE

Before we get too far from Lee Shields, we've learned that Lee recently received a 1979 Outstanding Service Award from the Soil Conservation Society of America. Lee was cited for sustained, creative assistance in Society conferences, activities and scholarship programs and for developing articles on soil and water conservation. We all bow low to Lee.

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YOU CAN CALL ME...
BUT DON'T CALL ME

Another conference, called the "Agricultural Information Conference," is scheduled for Nov. 26-29 in Washington, D.C., to be held at the same hotel (whatever that is) and concurrently with the annual meeting of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges.

"Inside..." wondered about that...figuring somebody had more inside information than we did. Since the announcement came from the Agricultural Libraries Information Notes, we called Gene Farkas, SEA-TIS. He says the meeting really has to do with librarians who are computerizing information...that public information "types" are welcome, nevertheless.

All of which prompts us to wonder how come so many different groups like to call themselves information people...there are information data retrieval folks, information technology specialists, computer information scientists--even the new name for the National Agricultural Library is the Technical Information Systems. Guess we'll just have to hang in there.

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CAST YOUR EYES
THIS WAY

Friend Ted Hutchcroft of the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology has distributed to most national and state officials a Directory of Environmental Scientists in Agriculture.

Ted points out that it's not all inclusive but that the book is a careful, thoughtful selection of reputable scientists who have been chosen by their peers for environmental responsibilities.

If you didn't get a copy of the directory, you might contact Ted at CAST, 250 Memorial Union, Iowa State U., Ames 50011. The books are also available to the general public for \$3 each.

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THE LINE FORMS ON THE
RIGHT
No job announcements this week, but we did hear from Lloyd Cliburn, one-time inf specialist for the Agency for International Development (AID). He's now retired, working almost full-time for an outfit called "Experience, Inc."

U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

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PROCUREMENT SECTION
CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

WELL...HERE WE GO
AGAIN

Lloyd has been teaching a course in communication lately for foreign information participants. He called because he's constantly seeking communication folks who might be interested in long and short term assignments abroad.

If you're interested in something of that sort, let "Inside..." know. Or, if you fear that we'll cop onto assignments first--which we probably will--call Lloyd direct yourself at (202) 659-3864.

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We're almost sorry we brought it up...that lost manuscript we reported a couple of weeks ago.

Layne Beaty, GPA, says "never mind to whom it was addressed. Someone probably is still figuring out an original address to send it to. Like my personal letter addressed to Jack Towers (who used to be in charge of radio here). That ended up in the publications division, forwarded there by one of USDA's agencies."

And then...on those speech openings. We can't turn them off. Latest word is that that cabinet official who started the whole chain is still starting his speeches: "It gives me a special pleasure to join you...."

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AN ERA PASSES...

We were saddened this week to learn of the passing of Ovid Martin, one-time Associated Press farm writer. Ovid had been retired for a number of years after covering agriculture from USDA facilities in D.C. He was a graduate of the U. of Mo. and a recipient of the ACE Reuben Brigham Award.